

Application No. 09/738,988

Amendments to the Specification:

1. Please **replace** the following amended paragraph for the pending paragraph beginning on page 9, line 30:

The negotiation facility 103 will collect the answers for the outsourcing and in-sourcing request. In step 405 it will provide the negotiation's results, if any, back to the recorder facility 202 or to the scheduling board 201. The recorder facility 202 or the scheduling board 201 will show these negotiation results. One possibility, among others, for showing the negotiation results is that to list the solutions found in a menu, when the user selects the item associated to the negotiation. Moreover, the negotiation facility 103 will provide the results of ~~[[this]]~~ these explorations, if the exploratory mode is allowed. Also, the decision-maker may want to stop some of the on-going negotiations because in the meanwhile, the decision-maker has found a solution for the allocation of some of the jobs and the time slots. In that case, the decision-maker could mark the jobs in the time slots for which the negotiation has to be stopped with an end mark and then put an end sign into the control region.